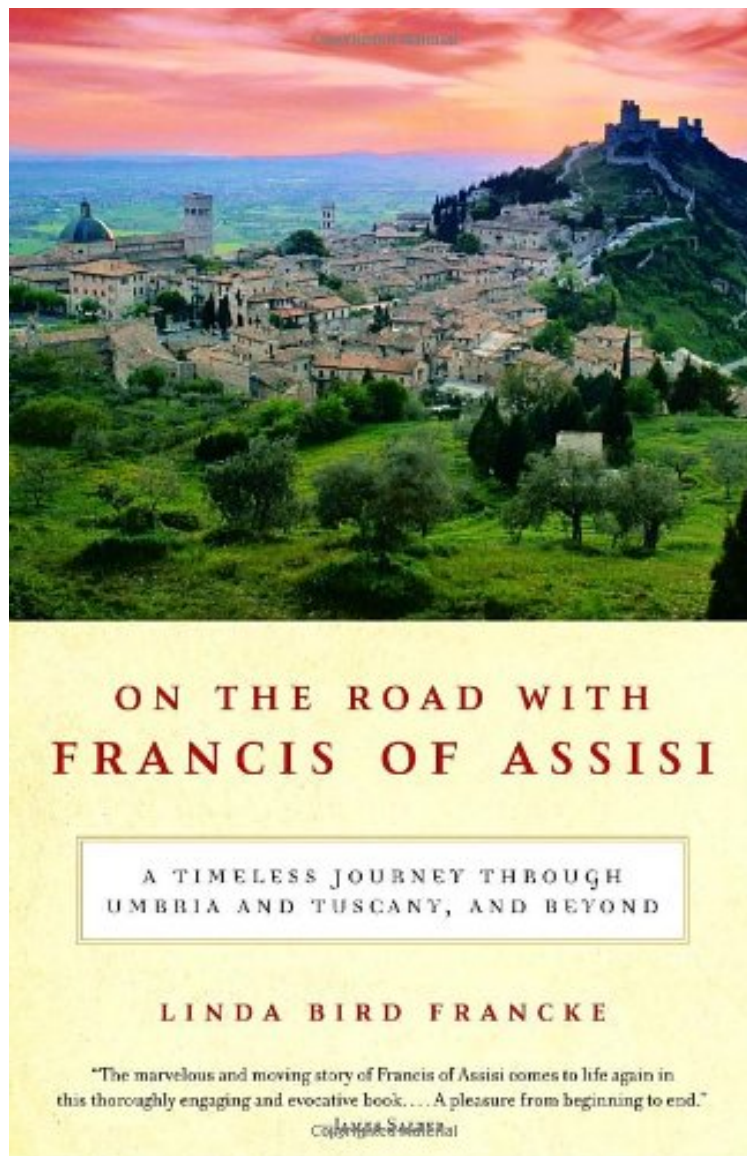


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On the Road with Francis of Assisi: A Timeless Journey Through Umbria and Tuscany, and Beyond

Linda Bird Francke

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Linda Bird Francke : **On the Road with Francis of Assisi: A Timeless Journey Through Umbria and Tuscany, and Beyond** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Road with Francis of Assisi: A Timeless Journey Through Umbria and Tuscany, and Beyond:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Averagely interestingBy janelizabethInteresting book. Not everything in it jives with the history of Francis that I have been taught by Franciscan scholars so I would suggest the reader not use this book as the be all and end all regarding Saint Francis's life and journeys. Primarily it gives the reader a sense of this area of Italy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Bruce DudleyGREAT0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... in conjunction w/the bio of st francis - complements nicely.By crystall"m reading in conjunction w/the bio of st francis - complements nicely.

On the Road with Francis of Assisi offers a unique and lively travelogue of parallel journeys: that of Francis of Assisi on his way to sainthood in the thirteenth century, and that of author Linda Bird Francke, who followed his path through the beauty of central and coastal Italy—and even on to Egypt. Francke tells the compelling story of Saint Francis through the many places he visited. She and her husband, Harvey Loomis, used as their guidebooks medieval texts, including the first official biography of the saint, completed in 1229, just three years after he died. Theirs was not a spiritual journey but one based on admiration for a man whose legend continues to inspire and fascinate millions around the world. From Assisi—a small Umbrian town that now draws two million visitors a year, making it second only to Rome as an Italian pilgrimage destination—Saint Francis crisscrossed Italy for twenty years. And so too does the author travel through the “green heart” of Italy to such hill towns and cities as Siena, Bologna, Venice, Gubbio, and Rome, and to the many mountaintop Franciscan sanctuaries from La Verna and Le Celle di Cortona in Tuscany to the Rieti Valley. Along the way, Francke movingly depicts the many miracles Francis performed and draws us into the splendid beauty of the landscape that inspired the saint’s love for nature and regard for all living things. Unlike Francis, however, whose asceticism caused him to add ashes to his food to deaden its earthly pleasure, Francke and her husband indulge in the fabled Umbrian cuisine, from wild boar to the region’s famed black truffles, and the incomparable local wines. On the Road with Francis of Assisi embraces the spirit and person of its legendary subject, and invites the reader to marvel at his spiritual intensity and follow in his footsteps through the timeless beauty of Italy. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly Francke (Ground Zero; Growing Up Divorced) invokes the legendary 13th-century saint as a spiritual tour guide of Italy, tracing Francis's footsteps to illuminate his spiritual and physical journey to sainthood. Submerged in the region's rich history, Francke traverses the country as Francis did for 20 years, lingering in Assisi (his birthplace), Venice and Rome, visiting chapels and devotional spaces bearing relics of his life or visual homage to the myths he inspired. Her vivid reimaginings create a window into Francis's life, which is blessed with an intriguing backstory that Francke skillfully revives in scenes of drama, despair and passion, as when Francis stridently severs ties with his father to a tittering crowd while "in the buff." She also lavishes attention on St. Clare, the feverishly devout nun who submits to the Franciscan order and falls desperately in love with its leader. Francke peppers her reverent yet witty account with local color and amusing anecdotes that usher history into the present, noting, for instance, that Peter Jennings kept on his desk a statue of St. Clare, as her miraculous witnessing of a Christmas church service marked history's "first live broadcast." Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Francke provides a unique spin on Francis of Assisi by telling his story within the context of a contemporary travelogue. Using medieval texts as her travel guides, she wends her way through both the Italian hill towns Francis visited and the Egyptian countryside, where Francis became a minor player in the history of the Crusades. Interweaving the past and the present into a remarkable dual journey, she manages to craft a compelling biography while offering a host of serviceable travel tips. As Francis marches resolutely toward sainthood, Francke ambles in his footsteps, recording the physical and spiritual journey of a truly remarkable human being. Including a lot of information about soul mate Saint Clare for good measure, Francke manages to paint an inviting portrait of both the man and the journey. Margaret Flanagan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved Advance praise for On the Road with Francis of Assisi “The marvelous and moving story of Francis of Assisi comes to life in this thoroughly engaging and evocative book. The actual towns and churches produce a map of a journey you would give anything to make, in the saint’s very footsteps. The book is a pleasure from beginning to end.”—James Salter, author of Last Night “This entertaining and enlightening biographical travelogue describes vividly Francis of Assisi’s growth from a wild and spoiled youth to a selfless itinerant preacher, passionate defender of the poor, and lover of all living things, who became one of the most beloved of religious figures, even among nonbelievers.”—Mario Cuomo “In retracing the travels of the medieval saint who rattled all of Christendom, Linda Bird Francke has marvelously woven together the realities of the thirteenth century with those of the twenty-first in a way that will delight and inform readers, whether they are tramping the hill towns of Umbria or dreaming at home in their armchairs.”—Peter Steinfelds, co-director of the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture, author of A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America From the Hardcover edition.